

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 30, 2025

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Weekly Update

1090 Sterling Road, Herndon, VA 20170
www.HolyCrossHerndon.org



HOLY CROSS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sunday, November 30, 2025

VISITORS: It is a joy to have you with us this morning. If you are looking for a church family, we hope you will consider Holy Cross. For more information, you can fill out a visitor form in the narthex, speak to an usher, or scan the QR code to the right.



FAMILIES: Children are always welcome at our worship services! There's also a small play area in the Narthex where you can hear the broadcasted service.

WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

For additions/changes, email the office: admin@holycrossherndon.org
Names will be removed after one month unless advised otherwise.

OUR CONGREGATION

Juliana Roe Beck | Bonnie Burton | Terry & Linda Butler
Joy Caveney | Joel Flegal | Roy Geiger | Otto Jacobson | Vivian Jefferson
Jared Lem | Reed Morgan | Mike Muller | Craig Reichow
Jeremy Shoop | Tuula Toney | Cherie Weatherhead
All Government Employees Affected by the Government Shutdown

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Riley Morgan | Thomas Newcomb | Collin Reichow

RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION

Erin Barden (sister of Andrew Barden)
Randy and Shirley Beamer (friends of Pam Darby)
Debbie Bowman (niece of Betty Skelton)
Joy Brown (friend of Kate Flegal)
Symphony Calvillo & her two boys (friend of Kate Flegal)
Jane Campbell (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Don and Liz Gober (friends of Craig Reichow)
Jason Greenwalt (friend of Cheryl Smith)
Madilyn Gross (cousin of Desirae Peral)
Matt Kim (friend of John & Tammy Breene)
Georgia Kirby and Cain Mason (friends of Cherie Weatherhead)
Phyllis Krapf (wife of Dick Krapf)
Don Kress (friend of Helen and Gary Wolfe)
Dale, John, and Jeff MacPherson (friends of Jared Lem)
Sharon Massen (friend of Craig Reichow)
Lisa Nolf (friend of Jared Lem)
Jim Pollock (godfather of Andrew Barden)
Anne Marie Berardi Rabinowitz (friend of Tonya Elliott)
Dylan Roe (nephew of Mark and Jo Roe)
John Smith (brother-in-law of Cheryl Smith)
Steven Swancutt (brother of Lynn Russo)
Diana Todd (friend of the Russos)
Michelle White (friend and coworker of Kate Flegal)
Bernadette Stevenson Williams (friend of the Roe family)
Laizu Zaman (friend of Jared Lem)

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Supply Pastor:	Rev. Amy R. Carter Feira
Director of Music and Liturgy:	Jeremy Shoop
Sound Technician:	Bob Thompson
Video Technician:	Sylvia Moran

Serving November 30th: First Sunday of Advent

Assisting Minister:	Anne Geiger
Reader:	Craig Reichow
Acolyte:	TBD
Greeter:	Jared Lem

Serving December 7th: Second Sunday of Advent

Assisting Minister:	Andy Krueger
Reader:	Jared Lem
Acolyte:	Gary Wolfe
Greeter:	Jared Lem

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE: NOV 30 – DEC 7

SU 30	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall	
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm	
	10:00 am	Worship – First Sunday of Advent	
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee	
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH	
	TU 2	6:30 pm	Bldg. Use: Boy Scouts Troop 12
	6:30 pm	Fiber Arts Group ~ Conference Rm	
	W 3	11:30 am	Lunch for the Soul ~ FH
	6:00 pm	Midweek Advent Dinner	
	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship	
	7:00 pm	ELL ~ Education Wing	
	TH 4	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary
	8:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal ~ Sanctuary	
	SA 6	8:00 am	Bldg. Use: Herndon's Women AA ~ Rm 204
	11:00 am	Bldg. Use: Called2Be 7 th Day Adventist	
SU 7	9:00 am	Kingdom Kids & Angels ~ Choir Stall	
	9:00 am	Adult Sunday School ~ Conference Rm	
	10:00 am	Worship – Second Sunday of Advent	
	11:00 am	Fellowship & Coffee	
	1:00 pm	Bldg. Use: Christian Missionary ~ FH	

LUNCH FOR THE SOUL

We need your help to serve our neighbors in need through this caring ministry! Holy Cross provides lunch on the first Wednesday of every month, and your support in cooking, serving, or cleanup is always welcome. Our next opportunity to serve is on Wednesday, December 3. Please consider joining us! You can sign up at: perfectpotluck.com/YEEI1717



2025 Advent Appeal
Prison Fellowship International

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

Scan to donate:
Or go to: www.HolyCrossHerndon.org
(click DONATE→VANCO→ADVENT APPEAL)



ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Join us on Wednesday evenings this Advent season as we pause, breathe, and draw close to the promise of Christ. Dinner is served at 6:00 PM, followed by worship at 7:00 PM.

This year's theme— Find Hope, Encounter Forgiveness, Pursue Restoration—guides us as we listen for God's presence in a busy season and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.

All are welcome. Come as you are.

12/3 & 12/10: Dinner – 6 pm, Worship – 7 pm
12/17: Worship – 6:30 pm, Dinner – 7 pm

WELCOME PASTOR AMY!

Pastor Amy Carter Feira attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and graduated in 2013. She has served congregations in the Metro DC Synod, most recently at Grace Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. She is currently on leave from call to complete academic work and is a PhD candidate in Religion and Culture at the Catholic University of America. She lives in Arlington, VA with husband Scott, sons David and Justin, and Domino the dog.

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL CHOIR

Rehearsals:

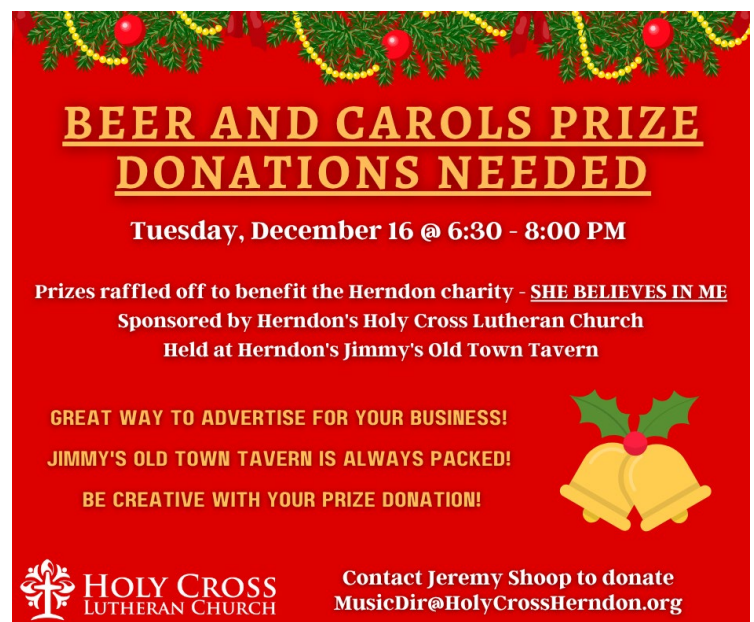
Thursday, December 4th - 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 11th - 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 18th - 7:00 PM



Christmas Eve (December 24):
7:00 PM service

This is a great opportunity for anyone who enjoys singing but cannot commit to the regular choir schedule. The festival choir is also a great way for anyone who is considering joining the choir and simply wants to see what it is like.

If you are interested in joining the festival choir or have questions, please contact Jeremy at MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org or call the church office at 703-437-1883.



BEER AND CAROLS PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED

Tuesday, December 16 @ 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Prizes raffled off to benefit the Herndon charity - **SHE BELIEVES IN ME**
Sponsored by Herndon's Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Held at Herndon's Jimmy's Old Town Tavern

GREAT WAY TO ADVERTISE FOR YOUR BUSINESS!
JIMMY'S OLD TOWN TAVERN IS ALWAYS PACKED!
BE CREATIVE WITH YOUR PRIZE DONATION!



Contact Jeremy Shoop to donate
MusicDir@HolyCrossHerndon.org

Holy Cross Lutheran Church Welcomes ALL!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church joyfully affirms and celebrates that every person is a beloved child of God. We welcome all who are seeking God's boundless love and sustaining grace into full community with us at Holy Cross. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down barriers and systems that divide God's children working to be a space committed to racial equality for God's people and to building a community where all are recognized as part of Christ's new creation.



We welcome you, and you are safe with us...
 Whatever your race, ethnicity, or heritage;
 Whatever your relationship status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or gender expression;
 Whatever your socio-economic status;
 We welcome you, and you are safe with us...

Whatever your age and life circumstance;
 Whatever your physical and mental ability.
 You are a beloved child of God, you are valued, and you are welcome here.

What to Expect in Worship

Worship services can be intimidating for newcomers. While we try to make worship as accessible as possible for everyone, we know that some aspects can be confusing. Feel free to ask an usher or someone near you for help if you have any questions today. We are happy to help and want all voices to be included in praise to God.

Our worship style is traditional at Holy Cross. A full liturgy is used to focus our praise and prayers to God. Notes are included in the side gutter of the bulletin to explain why we use the various liturgical elements. Communion is celebrated every Sunday at Holy Cross. The table (altar) is not our table, but Christ's table. Just as Christ welcomes all, all are welcome to receive communion at Holy Cross. Pastor will give instructions on how we celebrate communion. Written instructions are also included at that point in the bulletin.

Throughout the year we emphasize each liturgical season differently to mark the passage of time. Liturgical texts change to reflect aspects of that season, some elements are removed or added to reflect the mood of that season, and colors used to decorate the chancel are changed to provide visual reminders of the current season.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Transforming the world & ourselves, together in community, fellowship, and faith.

First Sunday of Advent November 30, 2025 ~ 10:00 AM

Although the historical record is sketchy, it appears that our Advent arose out of a season of fasting to prepare for baptisms at Epiphany. By the sixth century, an eschatological emphasis was present. Our Advent comprises the four Sundays before Christmas. Each year, the first Sunday contains the theme of readiness for divine judgment, the second Sunday the ministry of John the Baptist, the third Sunday the Baptist's call to a repentant life, and only on the fourth Sunday a narrative concerning the birth of Jesus. God comes, in the past in the history of Israel and the incarnation of Jesus, in the present in the word and sacrament of each Sunday, and in the future at the end of all things. The lectionary appoints readings to fit this pattern, and its tone stands in stark contrast to our society's weeks of preparation for Christmas.



WE GATHER



GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

by John Behnke

I. Chant

II. Meditation

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.
Assembly: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor:

Assembly:

Long expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the
peace and security only you can provide. We
reach for swords and spears, reluctant to
release our grip on the ways of war. We
become impatient while waiting and weary of
keeping awake.

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live
in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our
trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your
advent among us, that we may abound in the
hope you have promised. Amen.

Pastor:

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to
God's own righteousness. ✝ You are freed and
forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome
the Savior.

Assembly:

Amen.

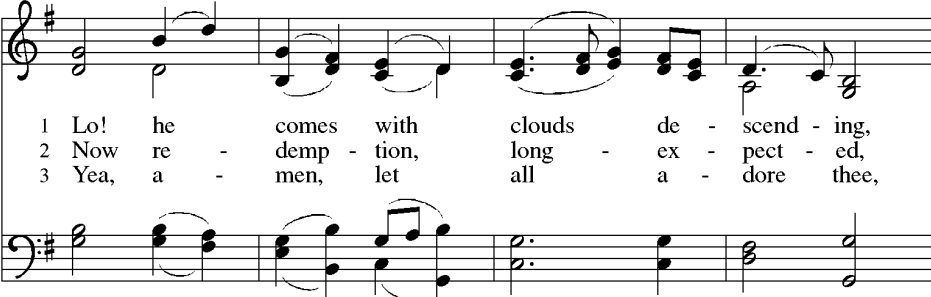


Written in the 18th century by Charles Wesley and John Cennick, this majestic hymn announces Christ's return in glory. Drawing on imagery from Daniel, Revelation, and the Gospels, including today's gospel reading from Matthew 24, it proclaims the hope that Christ will come again to set the world right. Its soaring language invites us to begin Advent with both awe and longing: watching, waiting, and trusting the One who comes to redeem all creation.

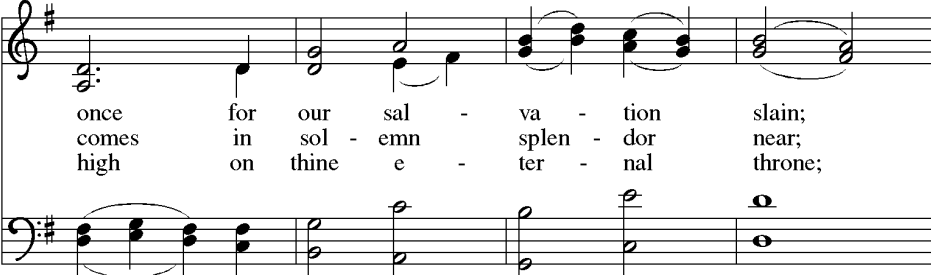
GATHERING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #435)

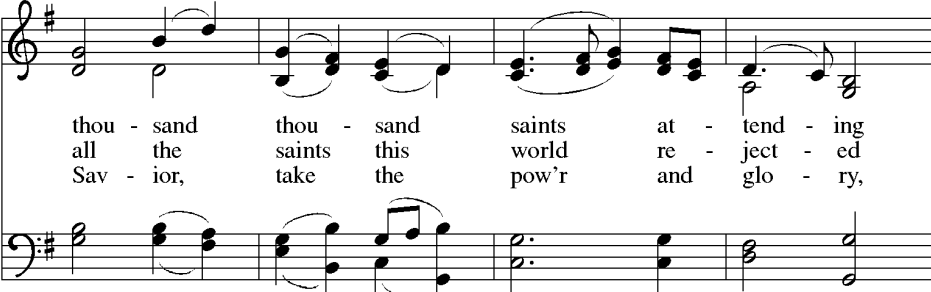
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



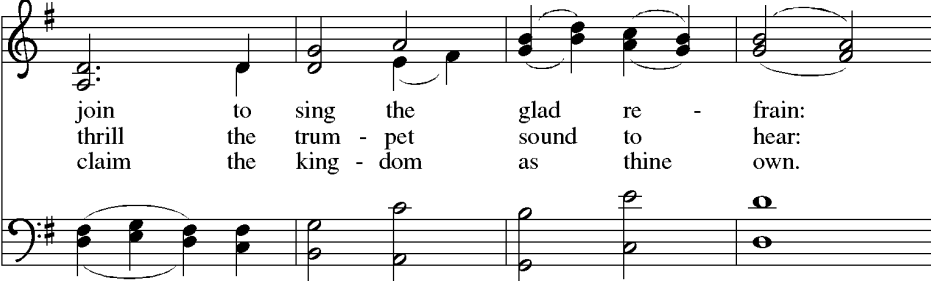
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;
high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



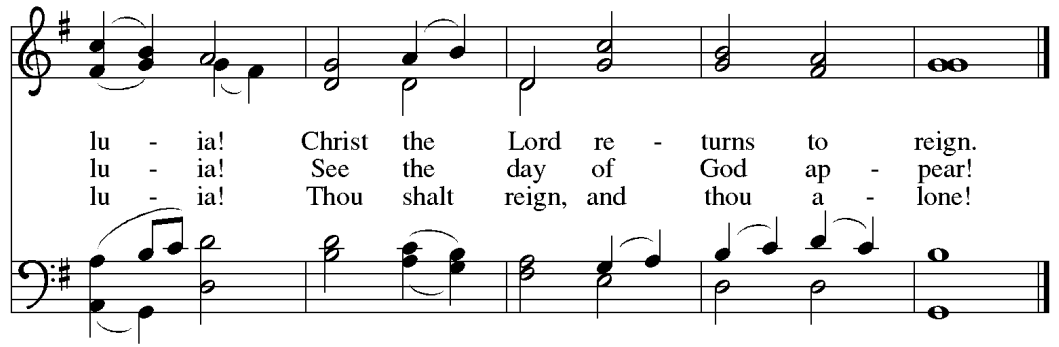
thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
all the saints this world re - ject - ed
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:
thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:
claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

GREETING

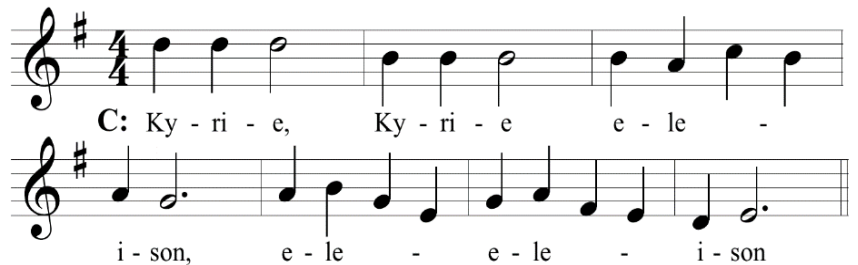
Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

Assisting Minister: A voice cries out, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”
 For all who gather in this place and prepare their hearts for His birth, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly:



C: Ky - ri - e, Ky - ri - e e - le -
 i - son, e - le - e - le - i - son

Assisting Minister: Lord Jesus, you came to gather all nations into the peace of God’s kingdom. For peace on earth and that all people may know of His coming, let us pray to the Lord.

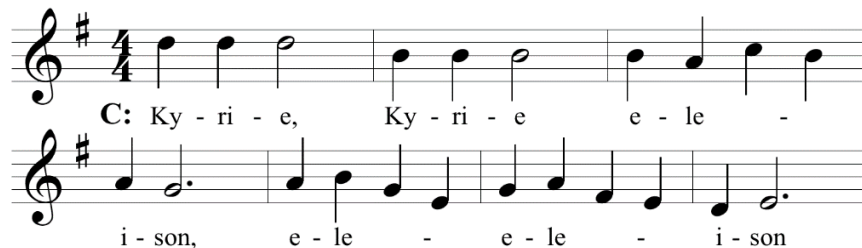
Assembly:



C: Chri-ste, Chri-ste e - le - i - son,
 e - le - e - le - i - son

Assisting Minister: Let anyone who has ears listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. For prophets of old who proclaimed your birth and for your people today who go out and share your Good News, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly:



The prayer of the day, based on collect #778 in the Gregorian Sacramentary, a seventh-century book of prayers, incorporates the imagery of light from today's readings. All sixteen Advent prayers begin with "Stir up," a traditional English translation of the original Latin excita.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Assembly: Amen.

Please sit.



WE HEAR GOD'S WORD



LISTENING WITH CHILDREN'S EARS

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains

In Advent the church both anticipates and celebrates the presence of God in Jesus Christ, who is himself, like Jerusalem in the oracle, the locus of divine justice and peace for the world.

and shall be raised above the hills;
 all the nations shall stream to it.
³ Many peoples shall come and say,
 “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 to the house of the God of Jacob,
 that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths.”
 For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
 and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴ He shall judge between the nations
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into plowshares
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
 neither shall they learn war any more.
⁵ O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the LORD!

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
 Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

*At the start of Advent
 the church hears Paul's
 wake-up call, to put on
 the Lord Jesus Christ.
 In the darkness of
 winter, we awake to the
 light of Christ. God is
 like the coming dawn.*

SECOND READING Romans 13:11-14
*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today
 in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment
 for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than
 when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let
 us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of
 light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and
 drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and
 jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no
 provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.
 Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Stanza 2)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Advent begins the liturgical year, and in this Year A, the gospel readings from Matthew complement the festival gospels taken from John. At this beginning we contemplate the end: the arrival of the divine judge means the end of the earth as we know it. In Advent, we are called to ready our lives to receive our disorienting God. The arrival of God, like a flood, always surprises us.

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

Pastor: The Gospel according to Matthew the 24th chapter.
Assembly: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But

understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Pastor: The Gospel of our Lord.
 Assembly: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

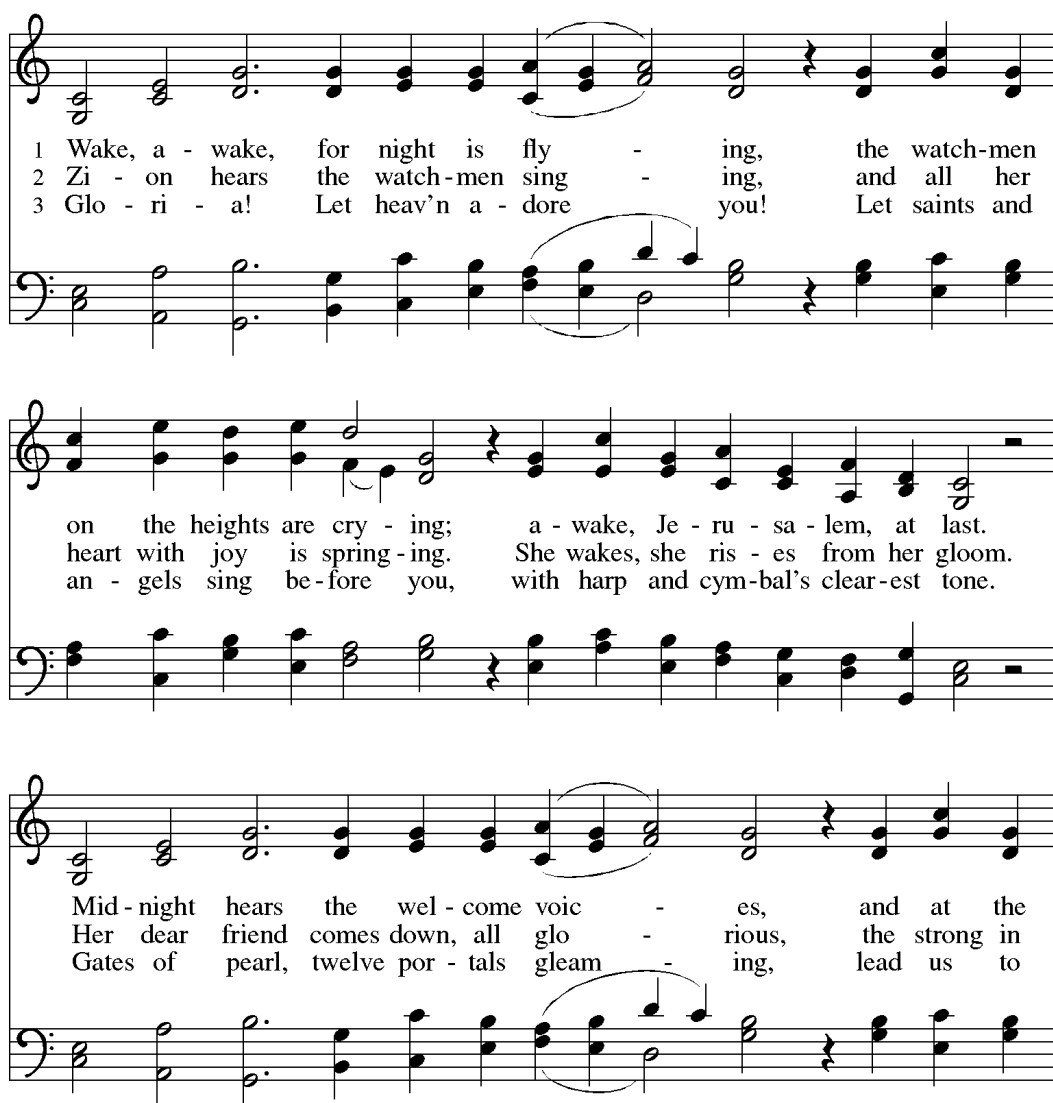
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #436)

Often called the “King of Chorales,” this 1599 hymn by Philipp Nicolai is one of the great treasures of Lutheran tradition. Written during a time of plague, it expresses both deep longing and confident hope. Echoing Paul’s call in Romans 13 to “wake from sleep,” the hymn pictures the church as a watchful people awaiting the arrival of Christ, the Bridegroom. Its triumphant melody announces that God’s new day is already dawning.

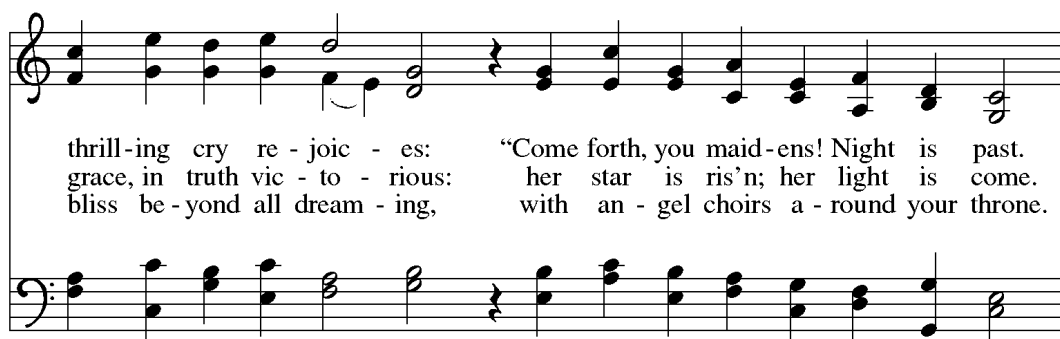
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

Assisting Minister: With the whole church let us profess our faith,
Assembly: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
 Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the
 dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assisting Minister: In our waiting and watching, we come to you in
 prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the
 church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*We pray for the greater
 church.*

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and
 instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders,
 teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us
 your ways and lead us in your paths. God of
 grace,

Assembly: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation.

Assisting Minister: God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the
 grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for
 forests and oceans, as we see you in the world
 around us. God of grace,

Assembly: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for justice.

Assisting Minister: God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need.

Assisting Minister: God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for those we hold in love who are ill or despairing, including those we name before you now (*the assembly offers names*). As we observe World AIDS Day, we call for your spirit to fill those affected by HIV and AIDS. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation.

Assisting Minister: God of the journey, you have already prepared the pastor who will walk with Holy Cross Lutheran Church in the season ahead. As we wait, stir our hearts for discernment. Guide our Call Team, leaders, and congregation to listen for your Spirit. Shape us for the ministry ahead and steady the feet of the pastor you are calling. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

We remember the saints.

Assisting Minister: God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,
Assembly: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Assembly: Amen.

The sharing of THE PEACE is an ancient ritual that puts us right with our neighbors before we offer our gifts to God.

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Assembly: And also with you.

Please sit.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING*Will We Know Him?*

Sanctuary Choir

by Don Besig & Nancy Price

*Please stand as you are able.***OFFERTORY**

(Stanza 3)

Prepare the Royal Highway

- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup,
 you offered yourself in love for the world,
 and in this meal you nourish us with your life.
 Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed
 the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in
 your name.

Assembly: **Amen.**



WE COME TO GOD'S TABLE



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Assembly: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

Assembly: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

Assembly: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
... and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

(Setting 3)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus was always the guest.

In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest.

At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished.

This is the table where we who are broken are made whole. So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

On the night in which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus gave thanks, took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and said, "This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me."

So now we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and wine, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

We ask, merciful God, that you send, in kindness, your Holy Spirit to settle on this bread and wine and fill them with the fullness of Jesus. Let that same Spirit rest on us, call us from the folly of this world, until in wisdom, we conform to the shape of him whose food we now share.

All this we ask through your son, Jesus Christ. By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

Assembly:

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Assembly: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

*This is Christ's table of welcome. Jesus invites **all** who are hungry and thirsty for unconditional love and acceptance to come to God's banquet. The ushers will direct you forward at the appropriate time. Communion will be by station. Red wine and white grape juice are available in individual cups. Bread served is Gluten Free. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than communion, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat by the side aisle.*

AGNUS DEI

(Setting 3)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Rooted in African American spiritual tradition, this song draws from Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Its steady, rhythmic refrain becomes a call to stay ready, stay faithful, and keep hope alive. As we come to the table, the hymn reminds us that our waiting is active: nourished by Christ, we are empowered to shine with the light of God's coming kingdom.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(All Creation Sings #949)

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps

trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain

Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;

chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

From the Taizé community in France, this simple, meditative chorus invites quiet trust. Repeating the words of Psalm 27, it helps us settle into a posture of patient expectation. During communion, its gentle repetition becomes prayer: wait for the Lord, whose day is near; wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart. In the busy rush of Advent, the song grounds us in God's steadying presence.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #262)

Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Assembly: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Assembly: Amen.



WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE



This 17th-century hymn by Laurentius Laurenti sends us out with joyful urgency. Calling believers to watch for the coming of Christ, it resonates strongly with today's themes of alertness and readiness. Yet the tone is hopeful, not fearful, the light of God's promise is already shining. As we leave worship, the hymn reminds us that Advent waiting is filled with rejoicing, courage, and the expectation of Christ's new dawn.

SENDING HYMN

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship #244)

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One,
now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✠
bless you now and forever.

Assembly: **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

arr. John Ferguson

*As part of our continuous efforts to make worship more
inclusive and sensory friendly, we ask that you refrain from
applauding during worship and after the postlude.*

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THIS WEEK'S COMMEMORATIONS

Andrew, Apostle

Sunday, November 30, 2025

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Thursday, December 4, 2025

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, The Fount of Wisdom, remained influential for centuries.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

FROM THE CLOUD OF WITNESSES

[Gerard S. Sloyan, in Homilies for the Christian People, ed. Gail Ramshaw (New York: Pueblo, 1989), 1-2.

In a religious autobiography entitled *Confessions*, St. Augustine tells of hearing the singsong chant of a child intoning repeatedly, “Pick it up and read it.” Going back to Paul’s letters Augustine opened randomly to what we now designate as Romans 13:13: “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ,” and this Romans passage is designated as our second Bible reading on this Advent Sunday. As the days continue to darken earlier during this season, we are summoned to the light at the end of the Advent tunnel. That light is Christ: chiefly as he is to come in glory at the end, but also, prefigured, as that coming is, by his earthly coming as the Christ of Christmas. But for now, look for the coming one at an hour you do not expect him.

—Gerard S. Sloyan

In 1959 the Soviet Union presented a sculpture to the United Nations that depicts a warrior reshaping a sword into a plowshare.



There is a hearing-assistance system (induction loop) in the Sanctuary for those with hearing impairments. Please ask an usher for instructions.

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